

At the GUILDHALL, James Wood, a carman, who gave

Category: Law

Full Text: Copyright 1866, The Times

**POLICE.**

At the GUILDHALL, James Wood, a carman, who gave his address at No. 1, Osborne-place, Brick-lane, Spitalfields, was placed at the bar on remand, before Alderman Stone, charged with defrauding silkmercers by means of forged orders. Mr. George Lewis, jun., of Ely-place, appeared for the prosecution, and said the charge he had to make against the prisoner was for obtaining goods by means of forged orders from a large number of silkmercers at the West-end of London. The prisoner had been very successful in his operations. He had made use of the name of Mrs. Waring, residing at the Woodlands, near Bromley, in Kent; Mrs. Harvey, living in the same neighbourhood; and Mrs. Baugh, the mother of the rector of Chelsfield, Kent. Among the silkmercers he had defrauded were Messrs. Lewis and Allenby, of Regent-street; Mr. Peter Robinson, of Regent-street; Mr. King, of Regent-street; Messrs. Halling, Pearce, and Stone, of Pall-Mall East, and others. He proposed to prove four cases against the prisoner, and that he was convicted in 1862 of similar offences, and either sentenced to penal servitude, or imprisonment for a long term. Since then the prisoner had been following the same practices, and was not detected until he made an attempt upon Mr. Amott, of St. Paul's Churchyard, when their suspicious being aroused he was detected and given into custody. The following additional evidence was then given. Mrs. Mary Waring said she is the wife of Mr. William Waring, a magistrate of the county, and resides at the Woodlands, near Bromley. She does not deal at Mr. Amott's. The letter produced is not in her handwriting, nor was it written by her authority. The prisoner is entirely a stranger to her. George Agar, a warder at Holloway prison, proved that he knew the prisoner by the name of George Steadman. He was convicted at the Old Bailey in March, 1862, and sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment at Holloway. He pleaded guilty to six different charges of embezzlement, obtaining goods by forged orders, &c. The prisoner was duly cautioned, and having declined to say anything in answer to the charge, was fully committed for trial. Mr. Lewis then proceeded with the other cases. Robert Hanna said he is in the service of Mr. Peter Robinson, silkmercer, 58 to 62, Regent-street. On the 18th of January, 1866, the prisoner came to their premises and presented the following note:—"Woodlands, January 19, 1866. Mrs. Waring will thank Mr. Robinson to send by bearer four white and black plaid shawls, woollens, small pattern, the price from 20s. to 25s. each. On the receipt of bill with parcel I will forward a cheque for the amount. Address W. Waring, Chelsfield, Bromley D.C. Send nothing to"



W. Waring, Chelsfield, Bromley. P.S.—Send patterns of black silks.” He made up the parcel there and then, containing four shawls, value 4l. 6s., handed them to the prisoner, and he took them away with him. Mrs. Waring said the letter was not written by her or by her authority, and she never had the goods. She had, however, been greatly annoyed by receiving bills for goods she knew nothing at all about. The prisoner was fully committed for trial on this charge. Mr. Lewis then proved the two other charges against the prisoner, in the first of which he obtained six shawls from Mr. King, of Regent-street, by presenting a forged order from Mrs. Harvey, a friend of Mrs. Waring, residing in her neighbourhood; and in the other, the prisoner obtained from Messrs. Halling, Pearce, and Stone, goods to the amount of 15l. 11s. 6d., by a letter purporting to be signed by Mrs. Baugh, the mother of the rector of Chelsfield, in Kent. That lady’s name was perfectly well known at their house, and they made no difficulty in letting the prisoner have the goods. It was an every day occurrence for ladies to send up written orders for goods to be sent by carriers. In the latter case the goods sent exceeded the order given in the note. Mr. William Waring, of the Woodlands, Chelsfield, said he knew Mrs. Harvey and Mrs. Baugh. He was perfectly well acquainted with their handwriting, and the letters produced were not written by them. Mr. Lewis here drew the Alderman’s attention to the fact that all the letters were in the same hand, and were evidently written by a woman. The prisoner was fully committed for trial on these charges also.